

Week 1: Resource – Dictionary and Thesaurus

Day 1: Dictionary – In Print

What is a dictionary? According to Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition (2004), a dictionary is reference source containing words usually alphabetically arranged along with information about their forms, pronunciations, functions, etymologies, meanings, and syntactic and idiomatic uses.

A dictionary word entry may provide:

1. Spellings and variations in spellings
2. Parts of speech
3. Pronunciations
4. Meanings
5. History
6. Usage
7. Options for if capitalized or hyphenated or word divisions
8. Cross-references
9. Multiple spellings used
10. Explanations of abbreviations and symbols
11. Homographs (words with same spelling but different meanings or parts of speech)

What do you need to know to use a dictionary?

1. Alphabetical order: At the top of each page in the dictionary are two guide words. These guide words indicate what words alphabetically are contained on that page.
2. Root words

Day 1: Practice

1. Which of the following words would you find on a page with *goose* and *gosling* as guide words?
geese giggle gorp goose egg go over Gorgonzola gossip GOP
2. What is the root word of *eclipsing*?
3. How many parts of speech does the word *American* have?
4. What does the abbreviation *ca* stand for?

5. What does the chemical symbol Fe stand for?
6. What is another spelling for the word *favour*? Find another spelling for *pollywog*?
7. Is a hyphen used in the compound word *year round*?
8. What is the history behind the word *yabber*?
9. How is the term *Sunday punch* used?
10. Use the word *sulk* as a noun appropriately in a sentence.

Day 2: Dictionary – Online

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/dictionary?lu=a&cl=3>

When using the online dictionary, knowing alphabetical order is not needed, but knowing root words is helpful.

Day 2: Practice

1. If you were acting *indecorously*, what would you be doing? (Hint: Look up the root word "decorous" and the prefix "in.")
2. Use *palaver* or its variations in a sentence.
3. What is another word for a *palooka*?
4. What *punctuation marks* are you unfamiliar with?
5. When should you use *punch-out* instead of *punch out*?
6. Use the word forward in a sentence for at least three definitions listed.
7. What word is *charity* cross-referenced to?
8. What year was the word *crop duster* used earliest?
9. Should the word *gargantuan* be capitalized?
10. When is *gesundheit* used?

Day 3: Thesaurus – In Print

What is a thesaurus? Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition (2004), defines thesaurus as "TREASURY or STOREHOUSE and a book of words or of information about a particular field or set of concepts: especially, a book of words and their synonyms." Some dictionaries provide synonyms with the entries, but a thesaurus is a broad treasury of related words.

For example, when writing and you need a word that means more than *get* or you have used *get*

quite often, use a thesaurus to discover words that have similar meanings (synonyms) or opposite meanings (antonyms), as needed.

What do you need to know to use a thesaurus?

A thesaurus is similar to a dictionary in that the words are in alphabetical order in an index. After looking up a word in the index, you then have a list of similar words to decide what best fits. Section numbers refer to headings, not pages. Some words and phrases have many options; others a few. Again, knowing the root word and parts of speech are necessary.

In your thesaurus (print copy), turn to the index where all the words are listed alphabetically. Before the index should be a page describing the variations in type, headings, and UPPER CASE use. Read this to understand best usage of the index.

Day 3: Practice

1. What options does the index in the thesaurus give for the word *hard*?
2. To find a synonym for *hard* as used below, which index entry would you choose?

The task was *hard* to complete without the instructions.

Hard times call for determination.

Her *hard* heart discouraged the family.

The rain could not penetrate the *hard* ground.

3. Find three synonyms for *lumber*. Write a sentence using one of the synonyms you listed.

Day 4: Thesaurus – Online

<https://kidthesaurus.com/>

When using the online thesaurus, type in a word to find synonyms.

Day 4: Practice

In the paragraph below, look up the italicized words and find the appropriate synonym to take its place. Choose the word that best fits and best describes. Choose a word that fits who would be reading the text.

One *afternoon*, I decided to *get* some fish for dinner. I *got* my fishing license. I *got* my fishing gear. I *got* my bait. *Then*, I walked to the *creek*. *Then*, I put my worm on the hook. *Then*, I put my line into the water and waited. I *waited*. No fish *took* my bait. I *decided* that peanut butter and jelly sandwiches would be for dinner after all.